

Natural Arch Loop Trail #510

This trail begins at the Natural Arch parking area and runs along a paved pathway to the base of the arch. Trail #508 intersects this trail from the left before you reach the arch and to the right after passing the arch. Follow Trail #510 around the cliff to return to the base of the arch.

Begins/Ends:	Picnic Area	Length:	1 mile
Parking:	Picnic Area	Surface:	Paved/dirt
Quad:	Nevelsville	Difficulty:	Moderate

Buffalo Canyon Trail #508

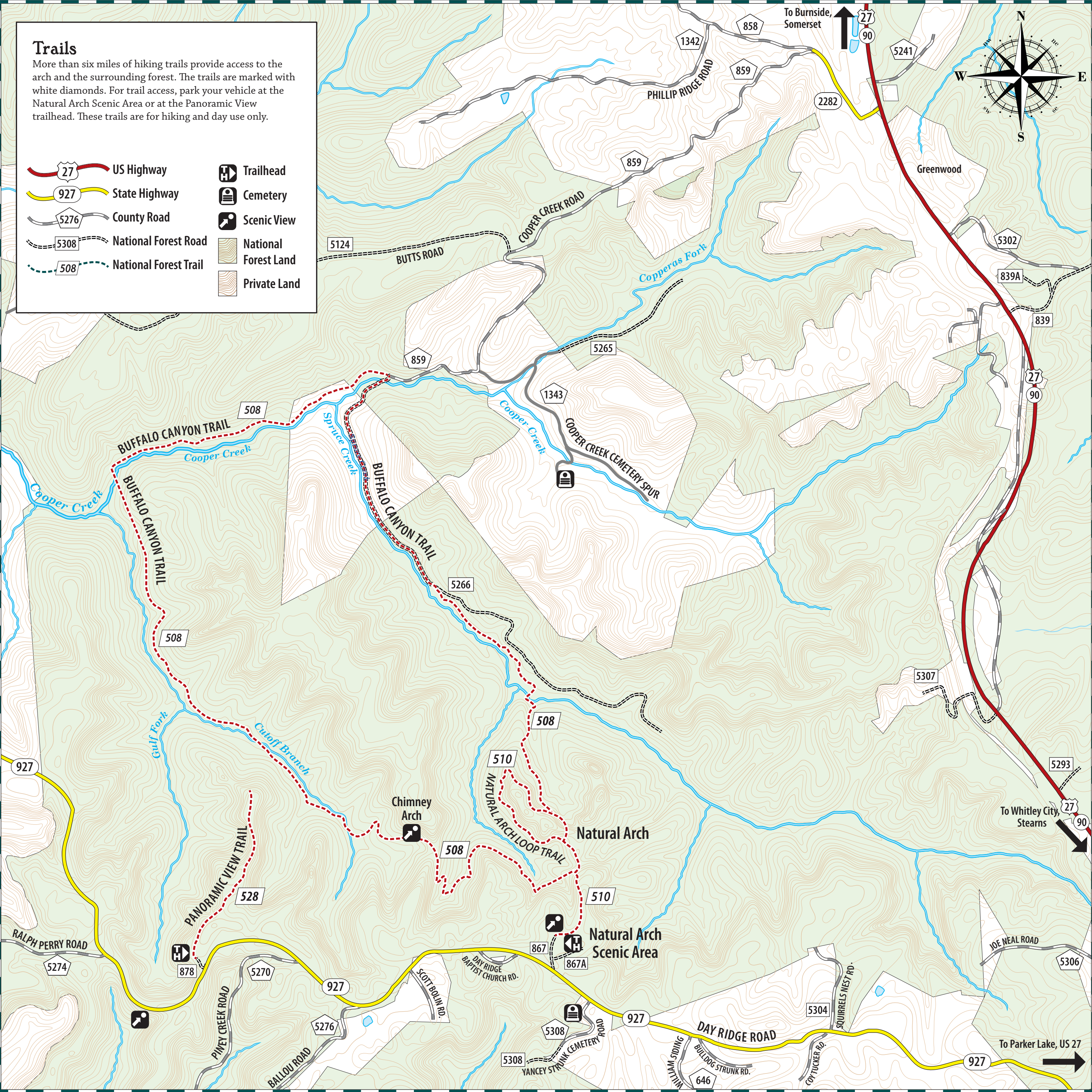
Follow Natural Arch Loop Trail #510 from the parking area past the overlooks, down the steps, and through Natural Arch. At the fork in the trail, take the right fork. The trail will descend from the cliffline to Spruce Creek. You will cross Spruce Creek and then come to Forest Service Road 5266. Turn left and follow the road to a low water crossing. Less than 100 yards after crossing Cooper Creek, you will come to a road junction. Turn left and follow the road and diamond-shaped trail markers for about a mile. The trail will then leave the road and cross Cooper Creek again. The trail will follow Gulf Fork and Cutoff Branch back to the junction with Natural Arch Loop Trail #510 at the base of the stairs. Follow Trail #510 back to the parking lot.

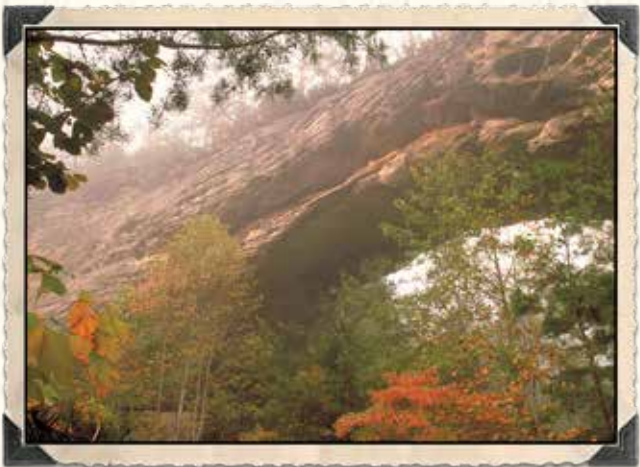
Begins/Ends:	Picnic Area	Length:	5 miles	Quad:	Nevelsville
Parking:	Picnic Area	Surface:	Dirt	Difficulty:	Moderate

Panoramic View Trail #528

This trail begins at the Panoramic Trailhead parking lot and traverses an old roadway on the ridgeline to the northeast, terminating at a scenic overlook. A second scenic overlook is located to the right, about halfway along the trail.

Begins:	Trailhead parking lot	Length:	0.5 mile
Parking:	At parking lot	Surface:	Dirt
Ends:	Overlook	Quad:	Nevelsville
Difficulty:	Easy	Connections:	None





Natural Arch. Photo by Murray Lee.

Natural Arch Scenic Area is a great place to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. The scenic attraction in this area is a spectacular sandstone arch that spans nearly 100 feet. You can see a panoramic view of the arch from an overlook.

Picnic sites, group picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails provide year-round enjoyment. Special events can be booked in the amphitheater.

Cultural History

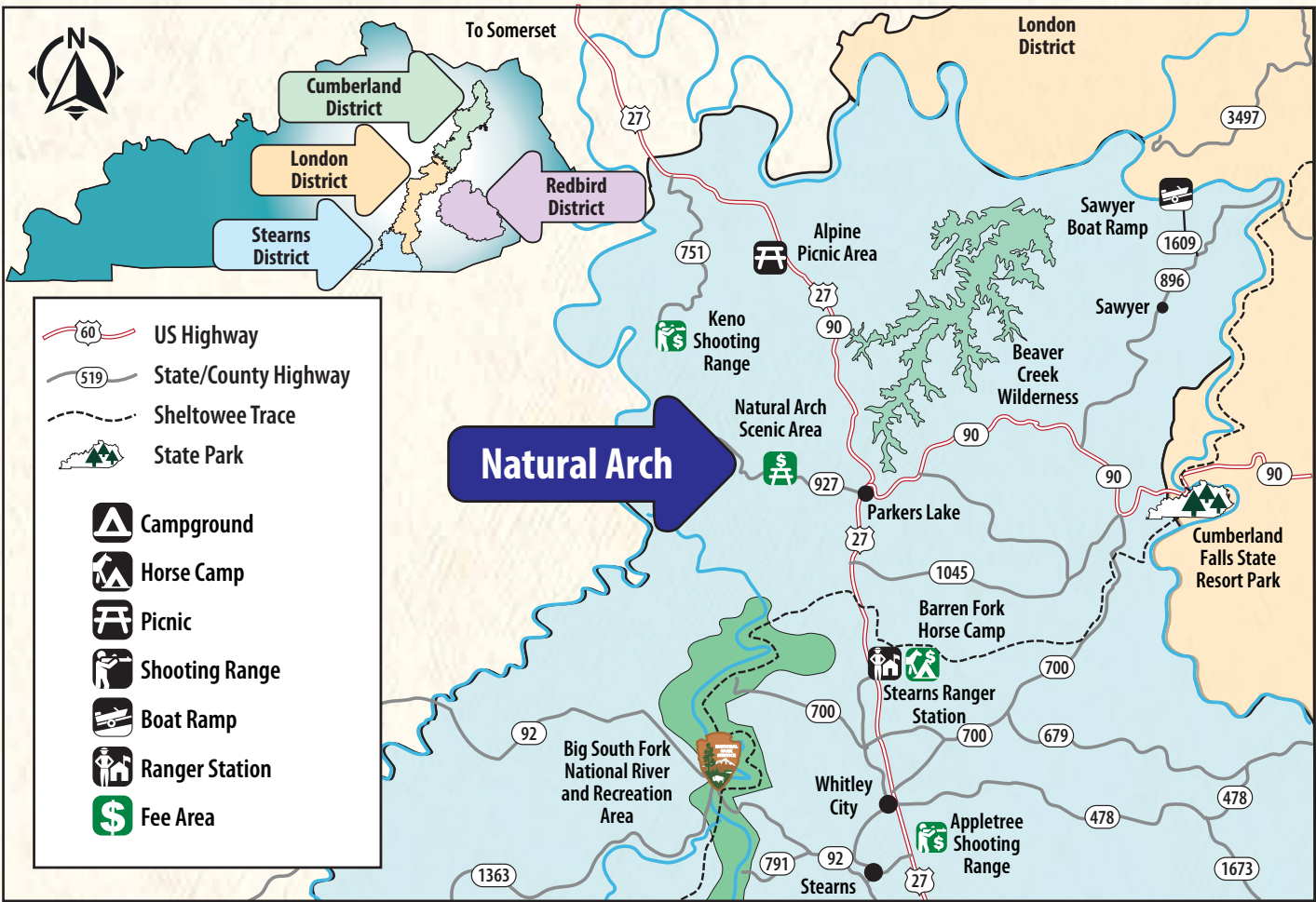
Natural Arch and the surrounding forest are part of our nation's cultural heritage. Prehistorically, this area was home to a variety Native American groups. They left no written records, but evidence throughout this area provides many clues about how they lived.

To help preserve the area's cultural integrity, leave everything as you find it. Avoid moving rocks or disturbing the soil. Observe signs and obey the rules. The artifacts and cultural resources in this area are protected by state and federal laws.

Safety

Natural Arch Scenic Area is located in a secluded forest environment. Be aware of outdoor hazards, including poison ivy, venomous snakes and biting insects. Black bears have been sighted in this area. When hiking or leaving a picnic site, you must move foods to a closed vehicle for safe storage. Put your trash in the provided bear-resistant trash receptacles.

In an emergency, call 911. Cell phone service may not be available in some areas due to cell tower location and rugged terrain.



Special Events

The amphitheater can seat a crowd of about 300 people in a rustic outdoor setting. The covered stage is equipped with electrical hookups for audio and visual equipment.

Commercial events and groups of 75 people or more require a special-use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These permits take time to process, so plan ahead when organizing an event that may require a permit. The amphitheater is available on a first-come, first-served basis unless posted as reserved. Contact the Stearns Ranger District office to reserve the facility up to one year in advance.

Picnic Areas

Eight picnic sites and two group picnic shelters with nearby grills, water fountains and toilets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each group shelter has six picnic tables, a large grill, a serving table, electricity and water to accommodate up to 36 people. The shelters may be rented up to one year in advance by contacting the Stearns Ranger District office. The area is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Please dispose of trash properly in nearby garbage containers.

Playground

Swings, horseshoe pits and climbing blocks are provided for your use. Additional play equipment can be set up in the playground area. Remember to remove your personal play equipment when leaving.

Accessibility

The picnic area is accessed by concrete walkways, including a walkway to the Natural Arch overlook.

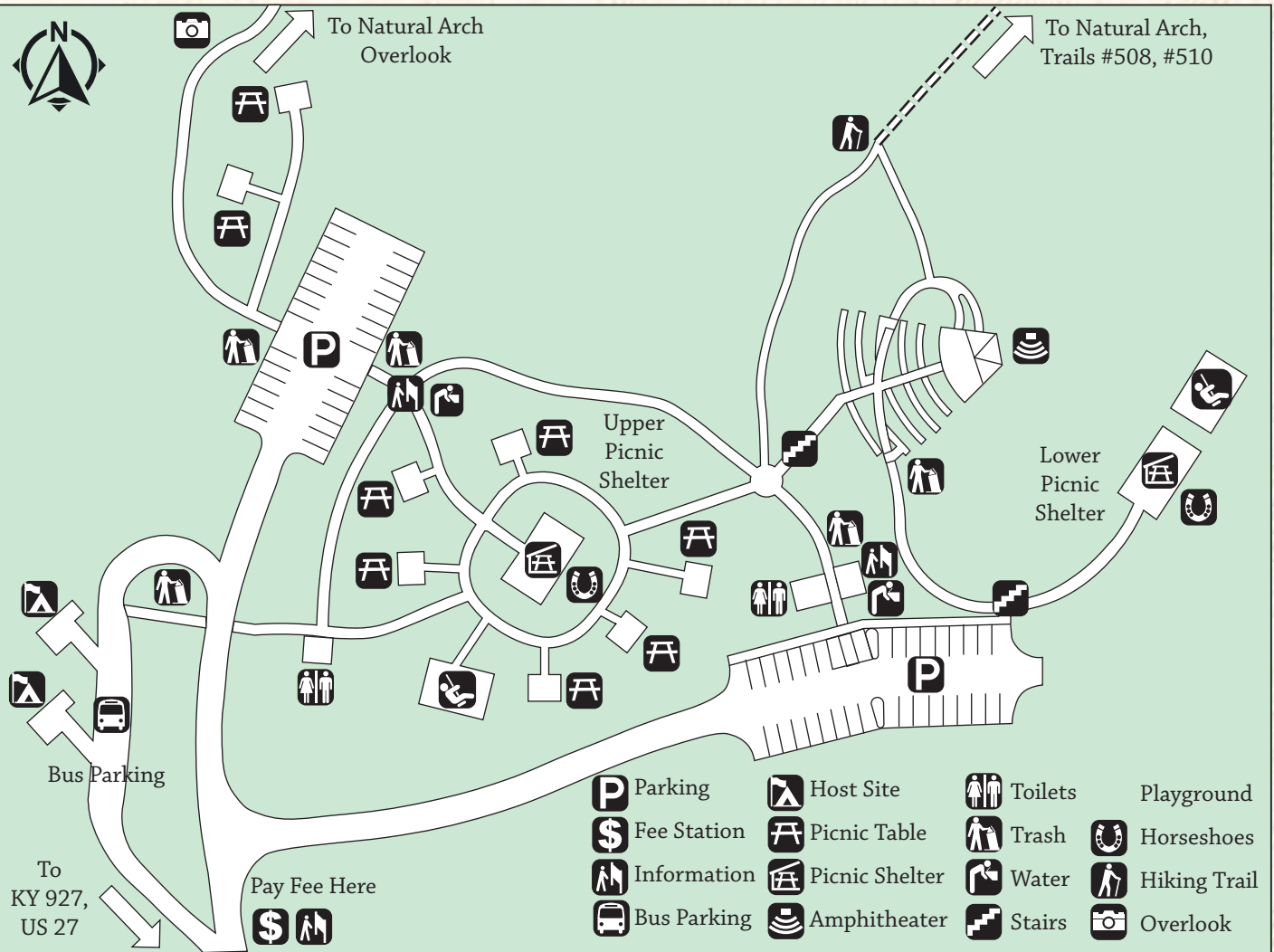
Directions

Directions from Somerset: Take US 27 South for 21 miles, turn right (west) on KY 927 (Day Ridge Road) and follow the signs for 2 miles.

Directions from Whitley City: Take US 27 North for 5 miles, turn left (west) onto KY 927 (Day Ridge Road). Follow the signs for 2 miles.

Fees

A fee pass is required to use the Natural Arch Scenic Area. You can self-pay onsite at the entrance, or you can purchase a pass in advance at the Stearns Ranger District office, and the Daniel Boone National Forest Supervisor's Office. Collected fees are used to maintain and improve the recreational facilities.



Amphitheater at picnic area. Forest Service photo by Gwen Hensley.



Stearns District office on US 27. Forest Service photo by Laurie Smith.

Information

Natural Arch Scenic Area is located on the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The Daniel Boone is part of the Forest Service, a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages national forests and grasslands.

Stearns Ranger District

3320 US 27 North
Whitley City KY 42653 606-376-5323
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed on federal holidays.

Daniel Boone National Forest

Supervisor's Office
1700 Bypass Road
Winchester KY 40391 859-745-3100

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf
Facebook: www.facebook.com/danielboonenf

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Daniel Boone National Forest Southern Region R8-RG 233 January 2021

Natural Arch Scenic Area

Daniel Boone National Forest



Top: Natural Arch Overlook. Center: Natural Arch entrance sign. Bottom: trail leading to overlook. Forest Service photos by Gwen Hensley.